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FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

**EIGHT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE
ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS**

1. Introduction

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023 and interviewed **six** Presidential nominees for the following positions: i) the Director General, National Mineral Agency (NMA), ii) the Executive Director, Sierra Leone Investment Board (SLIB) iii) one Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy –Qatar, iv) the Chairman, Teaching Service Commission (TSC) v) the Chairman, Nuclear Safety and Radiation Board and vi) the Deputy Commissioner, National Youths Commission.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained as usual, its strict consistencies and established procedures and interviewed the aforesaid nominees on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experiences to lead such important offices of state. Probing questions covered wide ranging issues relating to track records pertinent to their declared assets, tax obligations and visions for sustainable and productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

3. Tenth Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

i. **Mr Hadji Dabo, Proposed Director General ,National Mineral Agency(NMA)**

Mr.Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Hadji Dabo is a professional Engineer of no mean standing with a plethora of engineering services skill both at private and the public levels. Before stepping into the Government mining services, he spent greater part of his youthful mining knowledge at the country's renowned Sierra Rutile Company Limited where he served in various capacities viz:

- 2010-2014- Technical Services /Production Coordinator responsible for managing ,monitoring technical services encompassing geology, mines planning and development ,Metallurgy and laboratory quality and control tests;
- 2006- - 2008: Community Affairs Manager, responsible for the mines and Community relations (corporate social relations) during which he superintended both the bauxite and rutile mining concessions under the Titanium Resources Group (TRG) for mining communities in Bo, Moyamba and Bonthe Districts. He performed exemplarily well to his credit and the Companies in question.
- He also served as a professional mining consultant for years prior to his assumption of duty in June, 2019 as Chairman, Board of Directors of the National Minerals Agency (NMA) where he is now returning as Director General .
- At Government level, and as Chairman of the NMA, the nominee developed ambitious policy operational documents that are helping both the Agency and the Ministry to monitor the Mining Sector for economic growth.

Mr. Dabo holds a Master of Engineering Degree (1980-1982) from the University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Responding to the Committee on what he would be bringing different to the NMA, he said, the Board already had a working document which he intended to share with the new Chairman and expressed optimism that with team work they would achieve the desired vision as a government mining sector

ii. **Dr.Edward Hinga Sandi- Proposed Executive Director, National Investment Board(NIB)**

Dr.Sandy is an engineer with profound knowledge in environment, geochemistry and health related issues. He is a renowned research scientist with over sixteen research publications to his credit. Prior to this appointment, he was until recently the Minister of Trade and Industry (2019-2023) after serving as Deputy Minister of Water Resources (2018-2019)

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, this Committee reaffirms all earlier recommendations accorded this nominee during the Fifth Parliament.

In his response to the Committee on the role of the NIB, Dr Sandy said during his tenure as Minister of Trade and Industry many reforms took place that even culminated to the formation of the National Investment Board. He said the Board functions would now, according to the NIB Act, create conducive business climate to attract positive business growth and investors that will create jobs in the country.

He concluded on a firm note that once the NIB becomes fully operational, state agencies that have been leading businesses and investments drive would now be subsumed under the roles of the National Investment Board.

iii. **Mr Ahmed Tijan Fadlu- Deen – Ambassador , Sierra Leone Embassy , Qatar**

Mr. Fadlu – Deen is a well-established Business expert with proven track records as CEO and owner of International Supply Groups (LLC) and other related Businesses in and out of Sierra Leone . He also doubles as a seasoned Professional in the transport, Aviation Logistics and Construction sectors.

His invaluable firsthand experience in operating across Africa and the Middle East has equipped him with a deep understanding to mitigate challenges of entrepreneurial investments risk. He has a Master Degree in Economics from the Portsmouth University in the UK and has been very instrumental in encouraging investors from the Middle East that have special investment interests to come to Sierra Leone.

Responding to the Committee on the investment opportunity the Republic of Sierra Leone stands to gain through the diplomatic ties with Qatar, Mr. Fadlu Deen remarked that "Qatar is one of the wealthiest countries in terms of per capita and standards of living .The Qatar investment Authority is also one of the largest in the world .As Ambassador I will use the opportunity to bring investors to Sierra Leone to engage in large scale businesses especially from priority sectors such as agriculture, mining and tourism on either short, medium or long term scales to accelerate economic growth ".

The Nominee concluded that he would use his experience as a seasoned business man in Qatar and the entire Arab Region to ensure investments are guaranteed in Sierra Leone for more jobs creation.

iv. Mr. Emerson Kamara - Proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Youths Commission

Mr. Emerson Kamara is a youth activist and has an in-depth knowledge of formulating, coordinating and managing sustainable youth's programmes. He served as Deputy Commissioner of the National Youth Commission since 2018 and provided visionary leadership for effective decision-making towards the growth of youths in the country.

He studied at the Milton Margai College of Education then, and gained several Certificates to his credit.

Mr.Kamara promised to work with his boss to execute the multi –youths' programmes already on track including the most topical 'youths against drugs abuses campaign',he concluded.

v. Mr. Lansana Wuie Keifala – Proposed Chairman , Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission (SLTSC)

Mr. Keifala is a renowned Professional educationist with systematic track records of successful achievements in key educational programmes nationwide. He is passionate about the educational system through his interventions on many development spheres especially the Free Quality School Education which he championed with great success.

From 2018 – 2022; he served as Director of Service Delivery at the Free Quality School Education programmes where he was the focal person at State House for the implementations. His acquaintances with school authorities and community stakeholders across the country have impacted positively in prioritizing school problems and finding solutions.

The nominee has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Sierra Leone and a host of post graduate Certificates in Educational Management from the UK.

Responding to the Committee, the nominee said his wealth of experience in the school system would help improve the quality recruitment procedures of teachers in the Teaching Service and would further advise the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School Education (MBSSE) on the over bloated registration figures of candidates usually sent by Senior schools administrators to the West African Examination Councils for the Senior School Examinations.

He was advised by the Committee to pay close attention to the science teachers' recruitment procedures and distributions to help deprived schools countrywide.

vi. Dr. Bondi Gevao – Chairman , Nuclear Safety & Radiation Protection Board

Dr. Bondi Gevao is a renowned Environmental Organic Chemist with proven expertise within government bodies and Research Institutions globally. He started his early educational pursuit at the University of Sierra Leone with Bachelor of Science Degree (Hons) in Chemistry. He later attained several postgraduate educational credentials and awards in the United Kingdom.(UK)

As a Research Scientist he has led many critical research activities in and out of Sierra Leone. His wealth of experience has gained rapt attentions from the associations of Research Fellows of the University of Toronto , Canada and others like the Lancaster University, UK.

At the National level, Dr. Gevao served as the Executive Chairman of the Environment Protection Agency from 2021 to date with clear and outstanding performance.

Responding to the Committee, the learned Doctor promised to use his expertise on the foundations already laid by his predecessor and link –up with similar organizations in relations to responding to global treaties and agreements on nuclear radiation and safeguard measures.

4. Excerpt of ninth sitting of the Seventh Report – Monday -10th October, 2023

vii. Mr.Abu Bakarr Karim,Proposed Ambassador –Sierra Leone Embassy People’s Republic of China

Mr.Abu Bakarr Karim is a public health professional and policy adviser with extensive knowledge in leadership, governance and trade investment strategies.. Prior to this nomination, he served as Minister of Agriculture where he formulated agricultural development policies and advised the Government on issues relating to administration and management of the agricultural sector.

Mr,Speaker ,Honourable Members this Committee still reaffirms those desirable attributes of this nominee as were approved during the Fifth Parliament.

Responding to the Committee on how he would strengthened bilateral relationship especially on the agro –tourism sector, affordable housing scheme growth, medical and roads infrastructures, the one time Ambassador at- Large and adviser to the President mentioned “I am going to China as an agent or business man to look for interested development partners to serve the needs of Sierra Leone. This is not strange as prior to this appointment; I had very good relationship with varying development experts in diverse fields especially agriculture to which I owe so much passion and practice as a master farmer”

He was encouraged by the Committee to build on the good legacy of his predecessor and to further skew his diplomatic relationship to the People’s Republic of Japan under his accreditation in a bid to tap the economic potentials Japan has for developing economies.

viii. Mr.Harold Bundu Saffa-Proposed Ambassador -Sierra Leone Embassy, Ethiopia/African Union

Mr. Harold Saffa is a seasoned and reputable diplomat who thrives on new challenges with skills and emotional intelligence especially in navigating and negotiating complex issues. He has the flexibility in ensuring respect and taking

on board the nuances to ethics and the sensitivity attached to multi-literalism and geopolitics in international organizations.

From 2018- 2023 he served as Deputy Head of Mission, Sierra Leone Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union. Prominent among his responsibilities included deputizing the Head of Mission in his absence and coordinating diaspora issues in the accredited countries such Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom Netherland France and others.

On his assignment to Ethiopia / African Union, the experienced diplomat said it was a herculean task of not only dealing with the accredited countries but to constantly represent Sierra Leone on major African Union decisions making at Addis Ababa especially when the African Union members are now faced with sub-regional democratic threats and major assignments of peace building under the UN platform. He will be accredited to Botswana, Mauritania, Namibia, Zambia, South Africa and Ethiopia.

He promised to measure up to the expectations of the Government in building strong diplomatic ties all spheres.

4. Recommendations

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and are therefore recommended to the House for approval:

- I. Mr Hadji Dabo, Proposed Director General ,National Mineral Agency(NMA)
- II. Dr.Edward Hinga Edward Sandi- Proposed Executive Director, National Investment Board(NIB)
- III. Mr Ahmed Tijan Fadlu- Deen – Proposed Ambassador , Sierra Leone Embassy , Qatar
- IV. Mr. Emerson Kamara - Proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Youths Commission
- V. Mr. Lansana Wuie Keifala – Proposed Chairman , Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission (SLTSC)
- VI. Dr. Bondi Gevao – Chairman , Nuclear Safety & Radiation Protection Board
- VII. Mr.Abu Bakarr Karim,Proposed Ambassador –Sierra Leone Embassy People’s Republic of China
- VIII. Mr.Harold Bundu Saffa-Proposed Ambassador -Sierra Leone Embassy, Ethiopia/African Union

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Eight Report** reflects the **unanimous** view of the Committee. I therefore move that the **Eight Report** of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Signed 

Hon. Bashiru Silikie

Deputy Chairman and Leader of Government Business 1